

Amendments to the specification:

On page 1, after the title, please insert the following new paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE

The invention described and claimed hereinbelow is also described in PCT/DE 2004/000485, filed on March 11, 2004 and DE 103 12 907.3, filed on March 22, 2003. This German Patent Application, whose subject matter is incorporated here by reference, provides the basis for a claim of priority of invention under 35 U.S.C. 119 (a)-(d).

On page 1, line 6, please amend the heading as follows:

~~Prior Art~~ Background of the Invention

On page 4, please delete the paragraph contained in lines 13-15.

On page 12, line 19, please amend the heading as follows:

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments ~~Ways of Embodying~~
~~the Invention~~

After page 24, please add the following abstract of the disclosure:

Abstract of the Disclosure

A participant of a communication system includes first and second communication paths having a double-ring topology that is configured to operate in contrary directions. The participant further includes a first processing unit for processing information signals, obtained via the first communication path and/or for generating and sending information signals via the first communication path. A second processing unit processes information signals received via the second communication path and or generates or sends information signals via the second communication path. A first activatable coupling is positioned between the first communication path and the second communication path such that upon activation of the first activatable coupling, information signals are picked up from the first communication path and delivered to the second communication path. The processing unit checks the information signal for its presence. One phase locked loop per communication path is provided for phase preparation of the received information signal.